



Society of Mayflower Descendants in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Ginny Fossa

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MEMBERSHIP OVERVIEW

Objectives of the Mayflower Society in Pennsylvania

“To perpetuate the memory of our Mayflower Ancestors, and to preserve their records, history and all facts relating to them, their ancestors and their posterity. To maintain and defend the principle of civil and religious liberty as set forth in the Compact of the Mayflower, “For ye glorie of God, and advancement of ye Christian faith, and honor of our...Countrie.”

“To cherish and maintain the ideals and institutions of American freedom, and to oppose any theories or actions that threaten their continuity.”

“To transmit the spirit, the purity of purpose and steadfastness of will of the Pilgrim Fathers to those who shall come after us, an undiminished heritage of liberty and law.”

“To secure united effort to discover and publish original matter in regard to the Pilgrims, together with existing data known only to antiquarians, and to authenticate, preserve and mark historical spots make memorable by Pilgrim association.”

—Article II, Constitution of Society in Pennsylvania

Membership Requirements and Mayflower Passengers

Individuals with proof of lineal descent (a “blood line”) from a passenger of the Mayflower voyage that terminated at Plymouth, New England, in December 1620 shall be eligible for membership. The names of the 51 passengers from whom descent has been proven are as shown below:

John Alden
Bartholomew Allerton
Isaac Allerton
Mary (Norris) Allerton
Mary Allerton
Remember Allerton
Elinor Billington
Francis Billington
John Billington
William Bradford
Love Brewster
Mary Brewster
William Brewster
Peter Browne
James Chilton
Mrs. James Chilton
Mary Chilton
Francis Cooke

John Cooke
Edward Doty
Francis Eaton
Samuel Eaton
Sarah Eaton
Moses Fletcher
Edward Fuller
Mrs. Edward Fuller
Samuel Fuller
Samuel Fuller
(son of Edward Fuller)
Constance Hopkins
Elizabeth (Fisher) Hopkins
Giles Hopkins
Stephen Hopkins
John Howland
Richard More
Priscilla Mullins

William Mullins
Degory Priest
Joseph Rogers
Thomas Rogers
Henry Samson
George Soule
Myles Standish
Elizabeth Tilley
John Tilley
Joan (Hurst) Tilley
Richard Warren
Peregrine White
Resolved White
Susanna White
William White
Edward Winslow



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GENERAL APPLICATION PROCEDURES

Typically, individuals interested in Mayflower Society membership fall in one or more of the following three scenarios:

Scenario 1: Close relative with a Mayflower Society issued number.

In this case, you have a close relative that is already approved by the General Society of Mayflower Descendants. If Scenario 1 fits your situation, ask your close relative to provide you with a copy of their GSMD-approved application. If not, you can get a redacted copy of the approved application for a small fee by contacting GSMD.

Scenario 2: Not an approved Mayflower Society genealogy.

In this situation, you have a mapped lineage from a genealogical source that indicates a likely Mayflower passenger, such as Daughters or Sons of the American Revolution, Ancestry.com or another genealogical source. If Scenario 2 is the case, suggest that you strongly consider using the General Society of Mayflower Descendants (GSMD) *Mayflower Lineage Match* form. Oftentimes, the results from the GSMD *Mayflower Lineage Match* make it easier as you subsequently prove lineage during the application process.

Scenario 3: Eager to know if a Mayflower connection exists.

In this category, you have no or little knowledge about a direct lineage to a Mayflower passenger, and you want to explore the possibilities. If Scenario 3 is the reality, you may need to seek genealogical assistance from a professional firm, such as, but not limited to, the following online services:

- **AncestryProGenealogists** [www.progenealogists.com/]
- **Association of Professional Genealogists (APG)**
[www.apgen.org/directory/search.html?type=advanced&new_search=true]
- **Genealogists.com** [www.genealogists.com]
- **New England Historic Genealogical Society**
[www.americanancestors.org/Services/Lineage-Society-Applications]

Of course, you can do the research yourself. You can review a helpful article, “5 Steps for Finding Pilgrim Ancestors,” at the following webpage: www.genealogists.com/2015/11/5-steps-for-finding-pilgrim-ancestors/

Finally, you can come directly to the Society of Mayflower Descendants in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (SMDPA). However, the SMDPA is a non-profit organization with volunteers who are not full-time employees. The SMDPA volunteers assist prospective members with research and completing the application once the lineage and necessary proof-documentation is in order. The process takes time!

Note: In all three scenarios, you will need to provide a completed SMDPA *Proposal for Membership Form* (page 7) and *Mayflower Introductory/Basic Form* (page 8). There is more information later in the document about completing these complementary and necessary forms.



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Further, you can find general information about the Mayflower passengers and their families, listed above, at these web sites: GSMD www.themayflowersociety.org and SMDPA <https://www.sail1620.org/>. Another interesting web site is <http://mayflowerhistory.com/>. There are other Mayflower sources online and you should check with your local library for more publications.

Oftentimes, the most difficult part is just getting started. For the application process, it is easier in the beginning to start with yourself and work back through the generations to your Mayflower ancestor. Keep in mind that you are interested in gathering proof through various means for key items (names, relationships, dates and places) associated with birth, marriage, and death for each generation.

Wherever possible it is necessary for you to provide evidence of lineage from primary sources—secondary proof is acceptable when primary sources are not available. More about the type and quality of proof or evidence is explained during the application process.

—Do Not Send Originals: Legible Copies Are Sufficient—

GSMD Mayflower Lineage Match Form

The staff of the GSMD provides a service to assist prospective members using the *Mayflower Lineage Match* form online at the GSMD web site: <https://www.themayflowersociety.org/join/join-gsmd>. The GSMD staff compares your proposed lineage with the approved lineage papers in their files to determine what portion of your line is already documented.

You will receive a report from the GSMD staff on their findings with instructions on how to proceed. Please remember the Mayflower Lineage Match is not an application. Applications for membership go through the fifty-three individual member societies.

Society of Mayflower Descendants, Pennsylvania (SMDPA) Proposal

1. Initial Application Phase.

Every prospective member (applicant) shall complete in full a *Proposal for Membership* and accompanying *Mayflower Introductory/Basic Form*, located on pages 7 and 8. The exception for using the *Proposal for Membership* and *Mayflower Introductory/Basic* forms is when someone seeks status as a Junior “J.” A person pursuing a Transfer or Dual Membership only needs to complete the *Proposal for Membership* form.

Once in receipt of the completed *Proposal for Membership* and *Mayflower Introductory/Basic Form*, the State Co-Historian conducts basic research based on the applicant’s information. The State Co-Historian informs the applicant of the findings. Continuing the application journey requires the applicant to gather the necessary documentation to fill the gaps identified from the last generation the Co-Historian found, down to themselves as the last generation.

2. Gathering Details Phase.

Using the basic research as a guide, the SMDPA Co-Historian may seek assistance from the SMDPA historian team and then assign a team member to assist. The applicant’s role is to collect proof-documentation beginning with their generation, their parents’ generation, their grandparents’ generation, and so forth moving upwards until the generation already proven by the GSMD. Each application is



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different, although the first five proven generations of Mayflower descendants are found in the GSMD Mayflower Families “Silver Books” and similar books in their library. The other main source is a GSMD-approved application that may go beyond the first five generations.

The applicant’s focus is to gather proof-documentation for *each generation* in five key events:

- Birth of line carrier,
- Death of line carrier,
- Marriage of line carrier to spouse (including divorces and remarriages),
- Birth of spouse, and
- Death of spouse.

The GSMD application must show enough proof-documentation to ensure “strength of lineage.” The required information on the application must tie convincingly the parents with their child line carrier for each generation (vertical strength), and with the spouses-biological parents of the child line carrier (horizontal strength). In other words, the individuals on the application must be “one and the same” meaning the line carrier marrying her or his spouse is truly the same biological child of the parents listed in the earlier generation.

Accordingly, complete documentation (primary evidence) is a long form birth certificate, marriage certificate, and death certificate showing parents’ names for the line carrier and the spouse. This requirement exists for all births, marriages and deaths after 1900. Prior to 1900 primary and secondary evidence is acceptable. Examples of primary and secondary evidence are Bible records, transcriptions of town records, Federal Census Records, published family histories, town histories, church records, and other sources.

Note: For Pennsylvania proof-documentation, some local authorities (township/county) began registering births, marriages, and deaths as early as 1852 and many by 1893. The Commonwealth began registers for the same categories in 1906. Other States vary though many began before 1900.

Note: Whereas a single *primary* source is normally acceptable, the use of *secondary evidence* increases the burden for genealogical proof. You must provide evidence from more than one source for the same event. GSMD may allow some exceptions, however.

When the situation necessitates, a historian team member is available to give suggestions and ideas throughout the iterative process.

As the applicant seeks proof of lineage, and sometimes encounters a “brick wall;” the historian team member works with the applicant by suggesting ways to find missing records and complete documentation satisfy GSMD standards. Once the worksheet and records are in order, the applicant returns the completed Worksheet with documentation to the State Co-Historian. The final application phase then begins.

In addition, the GSMD does not accept certain documentation as proof, some examples below.

- Mayflower Index Numbers, DAR Patriot Indexes, and Indexes to any other lineage papers (including State Society Mayflower Lineage Books)
- International Genealogical Index (IGI)
- Copies of lineage papers that have been submitted to any other lineage societies



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- Genealogical compendiums, such as “Virkus.”
- Family group sheets and pedigree charts, including individual Family Tree Maker type files.
- Information from family web pages on the Internet
- Who’s Who (only considered when no other source of information is available)
- Social Registers
- Social Security Death Index (SSDI) or Other records Collections Indexes found on the Internet—the SSDI and other collection provide no useful Genealogical information for the application

Note: Please do not send copies of reference or source pages from Ancestry, Family Search, or similar sites. The GSMD wants copies of the actual documents (certificates, records, censuses, published genealogies, family bible pages with owner of the bible, among other proof.

3. Final Application Phase.

The State Co-Historian reviews the latest information from the applicant, makes any adjustments, and prepares a final application form. The State Co-Historian sends the applicant the final application with instructions. The applicant reviews the information on the final form, signs the application, and provides any missing proof-documentation. The applicant indicates the type of membership desired, Annual or Lifetime; he or she sends checks for the appropriate amounts to GSMD and SMDPA. The applicant returns the final application and other information to the State Co-Historian. Refer to the table on the next page for fees and dues. If the application is not accepted by GSMD, it happens infrequently, the SMDPA staff returns the applicant’s Membership Certificate Fee and Dues. The GSMD examination fee is non-refundable.

The State Co-Historian forwards the final application and supporting documents to the GSMD Historian General in Plymouth. After a thorough review, the Historian General returns the application to the State Co-Historian. The State Co-Historian contacts the prospective member with one of the following results from Plymouth: (a) the application requires additional documentation; (b) the application is rejected, rationale given; and (c) the application is approved. With approval, the new member receives the approved, corrected copy—it is the approved copy with annotated corrections that the member is to use for proof during supplemental and other actions in the future.

Contact the SMDPA Co-Historian at the following addresses.

Email to: SMDPACoHistorian@gmail.com

Mail to: Ginny Fossa
Attn: SMDPA Historian
340 Crescent Dr.
Easton, PA 18045
610-438-6117 (h)



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SMDPA Application Fees

Application Fees of the Society in Pennsylvania	
Annual Membership	
GSMD Examination Fee (original and supplemental applications) *	\$75.00 *
SMDPA Membership Certificate (original and supplemental) *	\$20.00
SMDPA Annual Dues (18 years and older)	\$40.00
TOTAL = \$135.00 for new annual members	
* Not applicable to Transfer or Dual Memberships	
Life Membership	
GSMD Examination	\$75.00
SMDPA Fee Life Membership (one-time single payment) **	\$700.00 to \$1,020.00
SMDPA <i>Supplemental Certificates Only</i>	\$20.00
** See Life Membership specifics, below.	
Junior “J” Membership	
SMDPA Junior Annual household dues (must join before 18th birthday)	\$15.00 for each Junior in a member household
<u>Note:</u> Juniors have no lineage papers filed and they are not recognized as members by the GSMD).	

For Life Membership, the following costs and time-frames (years) apply.

- From birth to 10: \$1,020
- Ages 11 to 20: \$ 960
- Ages 21 to 30: \$ 900
- Ages 31 to 40: \$ 810
- Age 41 and older: \$ 700

The SMDPA Board of Assistants establishes and periodically revises fees and dues. Please keep the document for reference as you go through the application process.

Do not send money until notified by the SMDPA Historian or other society officer—the application process takes some time and we notify members when submitting the final application to the General Society.



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Please complete the SMDPA Mayflower Proposal for Membership Form.

SMDPA PROPOSAL FOR MEMBERSHIP		
APPLICANT INFORMATION		
Full Name of Applicant:		
Prefix (Mr., Mrs., Ms., Dr., Rev., Other):	Suffix (Sr., Jr., III, MD, PhD., Other):	
Current address:		Date of application (e.g., 2018-05-25):
City:	State:	ZIP+4 Code:
Date of birth (e.g. 10 Nov 1972):	Retired? Yes No <i>(Please circle or annotate)</i>	Occupation <i>(Current & before retirement)</i>
Home Phone:	Cell Phone:	Fax:
Primary email (important):		Alternate email:
Name of Mayflower ancestor from whom you intend to prove descent:		
MARITAL STATUS (IF APPLICABLE)		
Full Name of Spouse:		
Full Maiden Name (If different from above):	Date of birth (e.g. 11 Jun 1979):	
SUPPLEMENTAL / TRANSFER MEMBER INFORMATION		
Is this inquiry a Supplemental? Yes No <i>(Please circle or annotate)</i>		
Are you a transferring member of another State Society? Yes No <i>(Please circle or annotate)</i>	Name of State:	
Your GSMD Member #:	Your State Member #:	
MEMBERSHIP INQUIRY		
Do you have a relative in any state Mayflower society? Yes No <i>(Please circle or annotate)</i>		
If yes, full name of relative:	Relationship to you:	
Relative's GSMD Member #:	Relative's State Member #:	
MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY		
<i>Please indicate the category you are seeking by placing a check <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> or <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> at the appropriate box:</i>		
Regular (i.e. Annual - applicants age 18 or older) <input type="checkbox"/>	Life (applicants of any age) <input type="checkbox"/>	
Transfer (Regular members only – Life Memberships are not transferable) <input type="checkbox"/>		
Dual (applicants of any age) (also check one of the above) <input type="checkbox"/>		
Junior (Annual - applicants must be under 18 years of age) (membership expires on 25th birthday) <input type="checkbox"/>		
How did you learn of the Society? (General Society, Member, Sail 1620 web site, Brochure, press/publicity, other)		
SIGNATURES		
Signature of applicant (or Sponsor for minor Annual or Life Members):	Date (dd/mm/yyyy):	
Sponsor's Full Name :		
Sponsor's Address:		
Sponsor's email:	Sponsor's Phone #	



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Please complete the SMDPA Mayflower Introductory/Basic Form using full names.

SMDPA Mayflower Introductory/Basic Form			
APPLICANT INFORMATION			
Name:			
Date of application (e.g., 2018-05-25):	Email:	Phone:	
Current address:			
City:	State:	ZIP+4 Code:	
MAYFLOWER LINEAGE			
1. Name of your Mayflower Passenger Ancestor (ALL CAPS) ➡			
LINE CARRIER (ALL CAPS)		SPOUSE (First Letter Caps)	
2. Son/Daughter:		Married:	
3. Son/Daughter:		Married:	
4. Son/Daughter:		Married:	
5. Son/Daughter:		Married:	
6. Son/Daughter:		Married:	
7. Son/Daughter:		Married:	
8. Son/Daughter:		Married:	
9. Son/Daughter:		Married:	
10. Son/Daughter:		Married:	
11. Son/Daughter:		Married:	
12. Son/Daughter:		Married:	
13. Son/Daughter:		Married:	
14. Son/Daughter:		Married:	
15. Son/Daughter:		Married:	
16. Son/Daughter:		Married:	
17. Son/Daughter:		Married:	
Note: Your name should be last.			
Comments/Remarks: Provide pertinent comments concerning your Mayflower lineage in the space provided below. If known, include the Full Name of the close relative, plus their close relative's General Society and State Society/Member Society membership numbers:			
Name:	GS#:	STATE#:	